



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF BRIDGEPORT, CONNECTICUT
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BILL FINCH
Mayor

June 2, 2015

TO THE CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

There will be a Meeting of the City of Bridgeport's **CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE**, to be held on **Tuesday, June 9, 2015, at 2:30 PM**, at the Margaret E. Morton Government Center, 999 Broad Street, Bridgeport, Connecticut in **OPED B** Conference Room located on the 2nd Floor.

AGENDA

1. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings
2. Discussion of Upcoming Public Hearing
3. Consideration and establishment of ideas for a proposed Environmental Community Benefits Agreement
4. Adjourn

Very truly yours,

Elizabeth Torres
Secretary
Citizen Advisory Committee

cc: A. Nunn, CAO
A. Wood, Chief of Staff
R. Felipe, Deputy Chief of Staff
L. Daniels, Director of Neighborhood Initiatives
M. Anastasi, City Attorney
Members of the Citizen Advisory Committee

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 2:50 P.M. by Adrienne Houel, Committee Chair. A quorum was not present. No action was taken by the Committee during the meeting. The following members were present:

Present (5)

George Estrada, Vice Chair	Rev. Carl McCluster (via phone)	Hon. Denese Taylor-Moye, 131 st District
Adrienne Houel, Chair	Chris Phelps (via phone)	

Absent (9)

Hon. Howard Austin, Sr., 131 st District	Sharon Lewis	Cathleen Simpson
Hon. Jack Banta 131 st District	Bill Malone	Elizabeth Torres, Secretary
Rep. Jack Hennessey	Hon. Mike Marella 138 th District	Adam Wood

Pending Vacancy (1)

Onte Johnson Vacated Seat

The Chair, Adrienne Houel started meeting by providing discussing the changes in the list of issues for the Environmental Community Benefits Agreement ("ECBA"). It was suggested that we include a reference to a recycling center on the grounds of the Harbor Station site. **Council Member Denese Taylor-Moye** suggested that the Committee was in a good place to move this process forward.

Chris Phelps suggested that the draft CEBA list include a provision to assure that there will be no net increase in emissions from the plant. A paper was distributed by the Sierra Club in which it was suggested that the ECBA address a provision that would assure a declining annual aggregate emissions limits and a retirement date in order to meet the goals of Connecticut's Global Warming Solutions Act ("GWSA") to recued emissions to 10% below 1990 levels by January 2, 2020 and 80% below 2001 levels by 2050. This provisions should also include a date certain for the retirement of the gas plant operations consistent with the declining time-frame set forth in GWSA. In this regard, **the Chair** suggested that the ECBA include language that would allow for flexibility or fluidity between PSEG and the City, through the Environmental Task Force, to address changes in the law and circumstances during the life of the CEBA.

Council Member Taylor-Moye urged City Hall to publicize the hearing by distributing information to members of the City Council, NRZ leadership, libraries and others in the community.

Attorney Mednick was asked to modify the CEBA list, which is attached hereto.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:35 pm.

CITIZENS ACTION COMMITTEE:
RESTRUCTURED LIST OF ISSUES CONSIDERED
COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS AGREEMENT ("CEBA"), BRIDGEPORT, CT

Background

The drafting committee met last week arrived at some suggestions for consideration by the CAC. At the outset it is apparent that there will not be sufficient level of funding to meet some of the major infrastructural issues that were on the original "bucket list". In that context, this restructured list is founded upon three major assumptions. First, that it will be necessary to establish a fiduciary for the purpose of distribution of any funds contributed through the ECBA. In all likelihood the fiduciary will be a local foundation. Second, there will be two distinct funding opportunities: earmarked funds available for particular departments or entities of the City and open competitive funding opportunities. Those items will be listed below.

Moreover, you will see reference to an Environmental Task Force. The drafting committee believes such an entity should be institutionalized both by ordinance and contractually in the ECBA. The Task force can continue to have an outreach and oversight function with regard to the community interests in dealing with PSEG and other similarly situated entities and, at the same time, play and advisory role with the eventual fiduciary to ensure that funds are being fairly distributed in the context of the agreement.

Policy Considerations

- Shut down or phase out the coal plant, including clean-up, remediation, planned re-use with community and redevelopment/use beneficial to the City Infrastructure and Health).
- Agreement to protocols leading to the reduction of emissions over the life of the plant. The language would include daily and annual offsets, the mix of fuel sources, measurement and reporting protocols and an implementation schedule, including milestones. In effect, there should be no net increase of emissions and there should be an agreed upon framework for the reduction of emissions.
- PSEG should demonstrate to the City its adoption of resilience efforts taking into consideration risks and vulnerabilities as well as future extreme climate related events and the effects of climate change in everyday planning and decision-making at the plant (Infrastructure)
- Move plant north on the site. PSEG can land lease the acreage where the tanks are now, that will be removed, to the city for a dollar a year for open space / park land. This can become an extension of Seaside Park connected by a boardwalk the developer next door constructs. This would provide for the first time in a century access to the harbor on that side. This dovetails into the Mayor's ongoing efforts to open the waterfront once again to communities divorced from it by industrial sprawl. (Infrastructure)
- The permit for the plant should include declining annual aggregate emissions limits and a retirement date in order to meet the goals of Connecticut's Global Warming Solutions Act ("GWSA") to recued emissions to 10% below 1990 levels by January 2, 2020 and 80% below 2001 levels by 2050. This provisions should also include a date certain for the retirement

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of the gas plant operations consistent with the declining time-frame set forth in GWSA.

- Recycling facilities should be located on the PSEG site.
- **Environmental Task Force/PSEG Outreach/Communications Plan:** There should be an on-going "outreach effort" by PSEG and the establishment of a Community Liaison Officer to interact with the Community Environmental Task Force. Involve developers in thinking about impact of physical plant (coal and gas) on redevelopment (South End and other neighborhoods) (Infrastructure). Some of the components of a Communications Plan should include the following:
 - Posting of public information regarding the Project on its website;
 - Participating in Environmental Task Force and other community meeting(s), in which each of the signatories to this Agreement are invited prior to the commencement of operations at which PSEG will describe its emergency action plan and communications plan;
 - Providing notification to the signatories of any application to the DPUC for approval to change ownership or control of the Project;
 - Participation by PSEG at quarterly meetings for the purpose of updating the City and Community Groups on any issues related to the operation and maintenance of the plant and any issues addressed in the ECBA;
 - Establishment of a hotline and email address through which questions or concerns can be submitted to the Community Liaison Officer; and,
 - In addition, on or before 90 days after commencement of operations, PSEG shall provide a tour of the new peaking units and invite the Community Groups to attend, provided that all tour attendees shall comply fully with all security procedures required by PSEG.

**Competitive Funding Opportunities (Foundation Funding)
(Community Environmental Task Force = Advisory Committee to the Fund)**

- **Infrastructure**
 - Creation of revolving loan fund of several million dollars for the Energy Improvement District to help finance renewable energy projects
 - Parks & Tree-planting
 - Visualization and projection lighting system which utilizes LED screen lighting, i.e., wrap the PSEG smokestack
- **Health**
 - Strengthen Community Gardens Programs
 - Expand farmers' markets
 - Increase access to health and food security by funding and supporting healthy bodegas (\$15K per bodega) or neighborhood grocery stores
 - Support for community clean energy project(s). Such projects enable renters, small businesses, and others who may be otherwise unable to install solar panels on their homes or businesses to do so, getting the benefits of solar energy and lowering their energy bills. There are some opportunities along these lines now, and if pending legislation passes this session, even greater opportunities will be available

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○ **Outreach and Education**

- Conservation Corps: Litter patrol similar to DSSD to improve the quality of life in the South End. Could be managed by PSEG or seeded within the South End Community Center [or Groundworks, for example.](#)
- Funding of conservation corps "outreach education" to double or triple number of people going door to door re: city's conservation efforts
- Recycling information to families
- Lead Paint: [support for expanding programs to educate families on lead paint threats to home health and measures to reduce its effects.](#)
- Household management to reduce health risks: promote Healthy Homes concept (Outreach & Education)
- Social Media to combat smoking
- Combat Teen pregnancy
- [AfterSupport expansion of after](#) school programs

Dedicated or Direct Funding (Drawn from Foundation Funds)

- **Health Department:** Improve access to health care; provide crime/heat maps, which provide a window on poor health conditions; fund special surveys under CT well-being Survey; and focus new studies on city neighborhoods (not only by zip codes) (Health)
- **Board of Education:** Funding/ Creation of environmental education programming (similar to the Mill River Association in Fairfield, but for Bridgeport school children) (Outreach & Education)
- **Small and Minority Business Enterprise:** Environmentally focused job training both during and following construction phase; including local contractor preference for contractors and subcontractors, ESL (Community Development)
- Youth Programs engaging them in work that solves environmental issues (Community Development)

Too Costly for ECBA/Other Funding Sources Available

○ **Infrastructure**

- Sewer Separation
- Complete Streets
- Storm Water Management: bio-swales and other
- Brownfields remediation
- Bike paths
- Landscaping/gardens as components of future housing developments
- Storm water management CSO project be funded to prevent sewage spills during severe rain events from combined system. This is a serious health concern for decades
- Creation of fund for the construction of net zero homes (subsidized/affordable units) (Infrastructure)

○ **Community Development**

- Support clean energy projects: importance of local residential impact

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- Streetscapes landscape improvements that would improve neighborhood pedestrian experience and trees to purify air from pollutants
- PSEG could fund on-going annual Bridgeport jobs training initiative possibly at new grammar school or S. End Community Ctr. things such as English as a second language can be skills that are provided for job seekers. This would make the diverse south end community more employable and provide them a greater opportunity of higher-paying jobs
- Community pocket parks in the south end community to enhance 'greening' of the community surrounding the new plant